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A Dream of Peace.

BY ERNEST NEAL LYON.

Our planet swings from darkling space
 To crystal day,—
 Productive of a taller race
 Than brutish clay,
 When Reason rules within the place
 Of rifle-play.

With kindling vision Nations then
 Will drop the sword,
 In common parliament shall men
 Find swift accord,
 And thought be regnant, by the pen,
 Or glowing word!

“To men goodwill!” the prophecy,
 Awaited long,
 May then reveal its mystery,—
 While, sweetly strong,
 In Brotherhood’s antiphony
 Ascends the song!

Yet, while we pray,—red, angry Mars,
 With baleful gleam,
 Obscures anew the Bethlehem star’s
 Benignant beam,—
 While breaks the clash of battle-cars
 Upon our dream!

The spirit conquers! And once more
 Souls seek release.
 The tumult passes! As before,
 The war-songs cease.
 And angel-voices, loved of yore,
 Now carol peace!

— *The Independent.*

The Interparliamentary Union and the Cause of International Arbitration.

Speech of Hon. Richard Bartholdt of Missouri in the House of Representatives, January 19.

Mr. Chairman: In the early days of April of last year the Congress passed a joint resolution extending an invitation to the members of what is now known the world over as the “Interparliamentary Union” to visit the United States and hold their annual conference on American soil, and providing at the same time for an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars for their entertainment. In effect, the passage of that resolution meant the fulfillment of a promise I had made as the only American delegate attending the conference of that organization held the year before at Vienna, to the effect that if the members would only decide to come to our country an official invitation by Congress and our government would surely be forthcoming, and American hospitality, proverbial the world over, would not be lacking in the matter of their entertainment.

In pursuance of that resolution the twelfth conference of that international organization of lawmakers was held in the city of St. Louis, in connection with the great World’s Fair, during the three days of September 12, 13 and 14 of last year. The delegates from abroad who

attended the conference were, in accordance with the instructions of Congress, treated as the guests of the nation from the day of their arrival to practically the time of their departure, and now that they have come and gone I feel it incumbent upon me, as chairman of the reception committee and president of the Interparliamentary Union, as well as of its American branch, to make a report to this House on not only the character of that organization and its deliberations at St. Louis, but also on the far-reaching diplomatic results of that great international conference. I feel, and most of you will probably agree with me, that since Congress made this event possible its history should find a place somewhere in the *Congressional Record*, the more so because the time of that conference marks, and will by future historians be regarded as a new epoch in the diplomatic history of our country. While the advocacy of international arbitration is an American tradition, yet the year 1904 will be memorable for all time to come because the United States Government then appeared in the arena of the world’s politics as a leader in the great movement for its general adoption by the civilized nations of the earth.

What is the Interparliamentary Union, who are its members, and what are its aims and objects? An answer to these questions is necessary for the better understanding of what has recently occurred and of what has been accomplished. The organization may be best described as the nearest realization at the present time of what the poet has beautifully called the “Parliament of Man.” It is a parliament of parliaments, a union composed of lawmakers of the different countries, and which every member of every legislative body of the world has a right to join. It had a small beginning. On October 31, 1888, thirty members of the French Chamber of Deputies and ten members of the English Parliament met at a plain hotel in Paris to discuss the project of an arbitration treaty between France, England, and the United States. This was the birth of the child, and William Randal Cremer, an English deputy, and Frederic Passy of the French Chamber were its godfathers. To these two men really belong the credit for having originated the idea that members of all the parliaments of the world should meet occasionally for the purpose of discussing questions which may be of common interest to all civilized nations alike. The idea inspired immediate action. Invitations were at once issued to all the other parliaments, and in 1889, during the Paris Exposition, the first so-called “interparliamentary conference” was held at the French capital. Though the attendance was small, and though the first declarations in favor of international peace were met with derision and satire by part of the press, the movement grew, and the second conference in London, in 1890, was attended by a much larger number of deputies from an increased number of countries.

When, in 1891, the third conference convened in Rome, the delegates met at the capitol building, and were welcomed, on behalf of the government, by the prime minister of the Kingdom. At this conference Germany and Austria-Hungary were represented for the first time, and from it resulted the establishment of a central bureau at Berne, Switzerland. Since then the union has continued its labors and sessions with ever-increasing attendance and ever-growing influence upon the international relations